Introduction of Rajdhani Express from New Delhi to Visakhapatnam

3997. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce another Rajdhani Express or any other Express Train from New Delhi to Visakhapatnam or Chennai to Kolkata *via* Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it has been announced to extend 8407/8408 Nizamuddin-Bhubaneswar Hirakud Express up to Visakhapatnam in the Rail Budget 2005-06.

Allocation of Funds for Speedy Development of the Backward Areas of Orissa

3998. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to secure speedy development of the backward areas of Orissa, the State Government has requested for higher allocation of funds in the railway sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a request has also been made for expeditious completion of ongoing projects and for sanction of new ones to keep pace with the development in the region;

(d) if so, the action plan of the Centre to help the State in this regard; and

(e) the total length of rail line per 1000 Kms. in Orissa, *vis-a- vis* all other States in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa had requested

for higher allocation of funds to the tune of Rs. 780 crore for the ongoing projects in the State during 2005-06 and certain other matters of rail development such as taking up new railway lines *viz.* Jeypore-Malkangiri, Talcher-Gopalpur, Puri-Konark, Bargarh-Nawapara (*via* Padampur), extension of Naupada-Gunupur line up to Theruvali, Gopalpur-Rayagada, Jaleswar-Digha, Jajpur Keonjhar Road-Jajpur, Gorumahisani-Buramara and Badampahar-Keonjhar. Doublings of Angul-Sukinda, Daitari-Banspani and Haridaspur-Paradeep has also been requested.

(d) The funds to various ongoing projects in Orissa during 2005-06 has been allocated on the basis of State-wise formula as per the availability of resources. A number of projects in the State have been identified as part of National Rail Vikas Yojana for which additional resources, from sources other than normal budgetary support, have been provided. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is also setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the beneficiaries for early implementation of Haridaspur-Paradeep new line project. All these efforts would expedite completion of ongoing projects. During 2005-06, Rs. 377.63 crore has been provided for ongoing projects in the State.

Further, surveys of following new lines have been included in budget:

(i) Extension of Naupada-Gunupur line up to Theruvali; (ii) Bargarh-Nawapara (*via* Padampur); (iii) Puri-Konark; (iv) Jaleswar-Digha; (v) Extension of Rupsa-Bangriposi line up to Gorumahisani; and (vi) Badampahar-Keonjhar.

(e) Orissa has 14.67 Route Kms. of rail lines per 1000 sq. km. of area, against the national average of 19.25 Route Kms.

Sampark Kranti Express

3999. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the names and the dates of Sampark Kranti Express started by Railway in last three years till date, name-wise and date-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): The details of the Sampark Kranti Expresses introduced during last three years are as follows:—